

Approved: May 6, 2014

NEW CASTLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 1, 2014

4:00 PM

**Wetlands applications/Reviews: Clarissa Christensen, 85/87 Piscataqua Street application review and approval.** Shoreland Impact Permit #14-00386, 85/87 Piscataqua St., Christensen DES letter, dated 3/17/14, of notification of approval of permit to demolish and replace structure on 85 Piscataqua St; partially demolish and replace structure on 87 Piscataqua St; improve utilities and associated structures. \*N.B. since above structures are beyond the 100' buffer zone, the NCCC was not involved with this application. This is a notification only.

**Members Present:** Chair Bill Stewart, Nancy Gulley, James Rini, Brian Mack, Sharon Houston, Lynn McCarthy, Bill Marshall, Darcy Horgan, Rebecca Audet

**Members Not Present:** Beth Hume, Curt Gillespie

**Also Present:** Marc Batchelder, Bernie Peleck, Clarissa Christenson

Chair Stewart called the April 1, 2014 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission to order at 4:04 pm.

Approve February and March, 2014 minutes:

February 2014 minutes:

*Brian Mack MOVED to approve the February 2014 minutes as amended; this was SECONDED by Lynn McCarthy and APPROVED unanimously.\**

*\*Jim Rini abstained as he was not present at the February 2014 meeting.*

March 2014 minutes:

*Lynn McCarthy MOVED to approve the March 2014 minutes as amended; this was SECONDED by Brian Mack and APPROVED unanimously.\**

*\*Nancy Gulley abstained as she was not present at the March 2014 meeting.*

**Wetlands applications/Reviews**

1. **Clarissa Christensen, 85/87 Piscataqua Street application review and approval.** Shoreland Impact Permit #14-00386, 85/87 Piscataqua St., Christensen DES letter, dated 3/17/14, of notification of approval of permit to demolish and replace structure on 85 Piscataqua St; partially demolish and replace structure on 87 Piscataqua St; improve utilities and associated structures. \*N.B. since above structures are beyond the 100' buffer zone, the NCCC was not involved with this application. This is a notification only.

Chair Stewart noted that the members held a work session on this project during the March meeting and that the members also participated in a site walk of the property last week.

Marc Batchelder, of Ambit Engineering noted that changes to the proposal are shown on the plan drawings on sheets C2 and C3. He said that sheet C3 has also added notes 5 and 6.

Mr. Batchelder explained that the new proposed location of the underground utilities is 60 feet outside of the HOTL and beyond the 50 foot buffer. He noted that sheet C2 contains a revised chart for temporary and permanent impacts. Mr. Batchelder said the proposed permanent impact has increased by 500 square feet. He said the proposed permanent impact is the fill and the proposed temporary impact is the trenching and the covering of the trenching.

Brian Mack asked if silt fencing has been placed on the site. He noted that the heavy rains earlier in the week are causing issues with runoff on the site.

Mr. Batchelder said he spoke with the Gray residence contractor who said they have Silt Soxx located on the site.

Mr. Mack said it is not properly located and therefore is not performing as it should.

Mr. Batchelder said he would check into the situation.

Mr. Mack asked how often the sediment control measures will be changed.

Mr. Batchelder said when the silt fencing or SiltSoxx are one third filled with sediment, they will be removed; cleaned out and either reused or replaced (as appropriate). He said they will be checked once a week or after during every half inch rain storm.

Chair Stewart asked what the 1000 feet of permanent impact will be for the project.

Mr. Batchelder said it will consist of a portion of the back patio and any addition to the driveway.

Mr. Mack asked if they plan to submit a permit to pave the driveway.

Mr. Batchelder said they will be requesting approval for paving the driveway.

Chair Stewart noted that the driveway is being calculated as impervious surface, so the Conservation Commission will not need to comment on a permit to pave the driveway.

Chair Stewart asked what the 2200 feet of temporary impact will consist of for the project.

Mr. Batchelder said it will be the minor grading being done towards the sidewalk that will go into the covered porch area. He said it will also be the ten feet outside the driveway area that will have temporary construction disturbance as well as disturbance caused ten feet from the foundation by construction.

Chair Stewart asked if the fill being used around the patio area is being considered a temporary disturbance.

Mr. Batchelder said that area around the covered porch will be considered a permanent impact.

Chair Stewart said he would like to understand exactly how much fill will be staying on the site after construction is completed.

Mr. Batchelder said any change to the contour is being considered as a permanent impact.

Sharon Houston asked if the methods discussed last month to minimizing the impacts from digging for the utilities will be used.

Mr. Batchelder said that they plan to propose using the most minimal impact equipment that can be used. He said they want to reduce any potential impact, but they did not specify what piece of equipment needs to be used for that purpose.

Chair Stewart asked what the depth being dug will be.

Mr. Batchelder said it would be a minimum of 30 inches.

Chair Stewart asked if there will be issues with ledge.

Mr. Batchelder said they have not done test pits to check for ledge; but based on what has been observed in the front of the property and in the area by the foundation; ledge should not be an issue. He noted that the ledge on the back portion of the property is lower than the depth that will need to be due for the trench.

Chair Stewart asked if any blasting will be done for the project.

Mr. Batchelder said there will be no blasting.

Jim Rini asked if the driveway is paved if a catch drainage system will be put in across the bottom of the driveway so runoff does not go into the street.

Mr. Batchelder said there will be a 5% tilt down away from the road so the runoff will go to the side and not sheet off into the road. He said it will slope to the west where there is a catch basin located.

Mr. Mack said that unfortunately the catch basin goes straight to the river.

*Jim Rini MOVED that the New Castle Conservation Commission recommend approval of the Gray & Christensen plans for 85/87 Piscataqua Street, dated/ 1/29/13, 1/29/14 (d1 and d2) and 3/28/14 (c2 and c3); this was SECONDED by Nancy Gulley and APPROVED unanimously.*

## **Old Business**

### 1. Fertilizer Ordinance/Public Hearing

Lynn McCarthy reported that the New Castle Town meeting will be held on May 13, 2014.

Jim Rini said that Beth Hume has made arrangements for a table at the Town meeting for the Conservation Commission to use. Dr. Rini distributed poster that Ms. Hume would like to use to educate residents on the milk weed issue with regard to the reduction of the number of monarch butterflies and posters with regard to the releasing of beetles as an effort to control purple loose strife. He said Ms. Hume has asked that the members discuss what other materials they would like to have available at the table for the Town meeting.

Ms. McCarthy suggested having materials regarding the Lawns to Lobsters program.

Darcy Horgan suggested using the space to educate residents on the new fertilizer ordinance; perhaps display some sample bags of fertilizers.

Chair Stewart suggested tying in materials for the fertilizer ordinance with the Lawns to Lobsters program.

Ms. McCarthy said she would also like to have a signup sheet for residents to note which landscaping companies they use so the Commission would know which companies do business on the Island.

Dr. Rini said that Ms. Hume wished him to ask the members if they thought that 50 handouts of the posters regarding the monarch butterfly would be appropriate, if there should also be a handout of the Monarch Butterfly from The Islander, and if there should be a sign up sheet for volunteers to plant plugs of milk weed on their property or a volunteer sheet to plant plugs of milk weed on town property.

Ms. McCarthy said all of the suggestions should be incorporated for the Town meeting table.

Chair Stewart suggested also having a signup sheet for the Green Team. He also suggested having information available about the Green Waste days; such as dates they are held, what can be brought in and some information about the compost pile.

Sharon Houston suggested having magnets made with dates of the Green Waste days and a list of acceptable and not acceptable materials.

Chair Stewart said a Green Waste poster or magnet would be a good idea.

Dr. Rini said that Ms. Houston would be great at doing a poster for Green Waste Days. He suggested including the dates and what can and cannot be taken.

Ms. McCarthy suggested having information available about invasives and how to combat them in your yard.

Chair Stewart said there is a brochure and poster regarding invasives that can be used. He said information about treating and dealing with them can be added to these. Chair Stewart noted that the composting issue has not been discussed much and suggested having information on the three different issues: green waste days, composting (leaves) and invasives and the Lawns to Lobsters and fertilizer issue. He suggested including information about the purple loose strife and the release of beetles in the invasive section. Chair Stewart suggested having a signup sheet for people volunteer to release the beetles.

Ms. McCarthy noted there are existing posters regarding the Lawns to Lobsters program.

Nancy Gulley said there are posters regarding the invasive issue.

Ms. McCarthy said information on the Green Waste Days and composting are needed.

Chair Stewart suggested combining the information for Green Waste Days and composting.

Ms. Houston volunteered to draw up materials on Green Waste Days and composting.

Dr. Rini asked that a specific point be made that grass clippings cannot be accepted in the compost pile.

Ms. McCarthy said the Monarch Butterfly poster could be enlarged for the presentation at the Town Meeting.

Chair Stewart summarized who will be responsible for which duties for the Town Meeting; Beth Hume will be in charge of the Monarch Poster, Nancy Gulley will be in charge of the Invasive information, Sharon Houston will be in charge of the Green Waste Days and Compost Pile information, Lynn McCarthy will be in charge of the Lawns to Lobsters information and the signup sheets.

Chair Stewart encouraged the members to have their information available to the members before the May meeting so it can be discussed at the May meeting and ready for the Town Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Stewart said there will be a more detailed discussion regarding the hours that the Conservation Commission will be “manned” and who will be responsible for which hours at the May meeting.

Darcy Horgan noted that 9 am, lunch time, 3pm and 5 pm are busy times for the Town meeting day.

## 2. Islander Article

Chair Stewart said he believes that the Commission missed the submission date for the May issue.

Lynn McCarthy suggested writing a paragraph regarding Green Waste for the June issue.

Chair Stewart suggested using the poster regarding Green Waste Days and submitting that.

Sharon Houston said she will determine the deadline dates for submission to The Islander and act accordingly.

## 3. Conservation plan-culvert maintenance

Chair Stewart said he observed several of the culverts during the last rain storm. He reported that the River Road culvert is performing well, but the Pitt Lane culvert is in rough shape and needs to be replaced. He said it cannot be cleaned. Chair Stewart said the Wild Rose Lane culvert is blocked up.

Nancy Gulley reported that there is a water main break on Wild Rose Lane which has been pumping fresh water into the culvert area. She noted that the phragmites located in that area are out of control and this may possibly be due to the fresh water intake.

Chair Stewart said that unfortunately, most of it is on private property. He said repairing that culvert and area would be a major project and would most likely be a drainage project.

Brian Mack asked how the Quarterdeck culvert was performing.

Chair Stewart said the Quarterdeck culvert was performing well. He noted that there is a depression after the culvert in the marsh. He said as a result collection occurs there and there is not as much flow out as anticipated. Chair Stewart said the culvert is in decent shape and the Phragmites on the southern side toward Lavenger are pretty well controlled. He wondered if the depression was intended by the engineers.

Bill Marshall asked if the culvert is working okay.

Chair Stewart said there could be some cleanup by landowners on quarterdeck side; such as lawn trimming and leaves being removed.

Mr. Marshall said there is now a lot of fish in that area.

Chair Stewart noted that the mouth of it is very narrow, so the Town and Commission need to be careful that it stays open. He noted that it feeds the whole marsh so they should be cognizant of that and make sure that part is flowing.

Ms. McCarthy noted that culvert maintenance would not be needed this year.

Chair Stewart agreed.

4. Identify possible projects for grant opportunities and Funding possibilities

This item was not discussed at the May meeting.

5. Membership

This item was not discussed at the May meeting.

## **New Business**

- A. Letter from Southeast Land Trust, dated 3/1/14, regarding monitoring conservation easement on town-owned land on the Back Channel Islands.

Chair Stewart reported that the Southeast Land Trust will be evaluating the Back Channel Island using aerial photography and a site visit. He said the Trust will contact him with the dates and he will provide this information to the members. Chair Stewart said if anyone is interested in joining the evaluation they are welcome.

- B. Conservation Law Foundation

Lynn McCarthy reported that V.J. Hogan and Jeff Barnum of the Conservation Law Foundation have offered to give a presentation at the May Conservation Commission meeting to discuss the state of the waters in New Hampshire.

Chair Stewart said it may not be possible to have them present at the May meeting. He said he will review the agenda and if there is an issue he will schedule them the presentation for a later meeting.

- C. Application Process Discussion

Brian Mack said as one of the individuals tasked with the application process (Jim Rini is the other individual); he would like to say that he prefers having the engineer present the

application to the members before participating in a site walk. He said this gives the members a chance to digest the application before the site walk.

Jim Rini said he supports Mr. Mack's suggestion and noted how quickly the members were able to get through the 87 Piscataqua application this evening.

Chair Stewart said he understands what Brian Mack and Jim Rini are saying; but noted that the rationale for the current system is to be able to approve an application in one meeting.

Mr. Mack said he thinks it is a stretch to be able to approve an application in one meeting unless it is a very simple application.

Chair Stewart said that if the plan is given to the members before the site walk they are able to review the plan; have the site walk; ask questions; and then have the meeting to approve or not approve the application.

Mr. Mack noted that some members do not read plans well and do better if it is presented to them.

Chair Stewart said he will put this item on the May agenda and the members will discuss it further at that time.

#### D. Discussion with Don Graves

Brian Mack asked Don Graves to check on the silt fencing on the Christensen property on Piscataqua Street. He noted it is not performing as it should be.

Mr. Graves said he will be going to the property this evening and will look at it and get in touch with the superintendent.

#### **Announcements**

1. "Saving Special Places" - Saturday, April 5, 2014

#### **Adjourn**

The April 1, 2014 meeting of the New Castle Conservation Commission adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Lucius, Secretary to the New Caste Conservation Commission